(c) whether same portion of this building has been surrendered; if so, the reasons therefor and the losses incurred; and

(d) the steps taken by the Ministry in this matter so far?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The property was acquired in order to relocate all the Departments, except booking office, under one roof at London at the price of UK£ 2.5 Million (Approximately INR 12.6 crores).

(c) and (d) The total area of the building is 25,123 Sq. ft. and the entire building has been leased out to M/s. Banteo for UK£ 537,000 p.a. effective December 4, 1998 while Air India has hired alternate accommodation at a cost of UK£ 132,000 p.a. This making a net gain of UK£ 405,000 p.a.

Recommendations of Cabinet Committee on Security

4570. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:

SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of measures recommended by the Cabinet Committee on Security in the aftermath of hijacking of IA flight IC-814 to Kandhar; and

(b) whether it is a fact that none of the measure has been implemented as yet and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) In the aftermath of incident of hijacking of Indian Airlines plane, following measures have been taken to further strengthen security at airports:

(i) Deployment of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) in place of State Police for security duties at the operational airports in a phased manner. The CISF has already taken over the security duties at Patna, Jaipur, Guwahati, Vadodara, Port Blair, Rajkot, Ranchi, Agartala, Bhopal, Hyderabad and Ahmedabad.

(ii) Frisking of passengers and hand baggage at the time of entry

into sterile areas has been tightened. Ladder-point secondary frisking has been introduced.

(iii) Strict control on access to the airports is being ensured by comprehensive review of Photo Identity Cards to restrict the number of pass-holders.

(iv) Deployment of Sky Marshals on flights at random basis as an added safety precaution.

(v) Raising of the perimeter wall to the prescribed height at all the operational airports.

. (vi) Replacement of old X-Ray machines and installation of new colour X-Ray machines wherever necessary so as to ensure that atleast two X-Ray machines are available at every point.

(vii) Modernisation and upgradation of security related technological set up at the airports is being done in a phased manner.

Non-Boarding of Confirmed Passenger in AI Flight

4571. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "AI ejects 150 confirmed passengers" as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 'the 29th February, 2000;

(b) if so, whether the credibility of the Air India is falling day-by-day due to its own policies and decisions;

(c) whether a large number of confirmed ticket holders were not allowed to fly at a number of times; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to improve the functioning of the Air India?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. This was a cascading effect of the cancellation of flight AI-129 of 18.2.2000 on the Bombay/Delhi/ London/Chicago route due to the Commander reporting sick at the last minute and no substitute being available.